

**THE MINUTES OF THE HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Tuesday, March 22, 2005 10:30 a.m.

Room 326 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Government Operations was called to order by **Representative Leon Drolet**, Chair.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Drolet, Hoogendyk, Gosselin, Garfield, Sheen, Tobocman, Lipsey, and Lemmons, III.

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: None.

Chairman Drolet laid **HB 4433** before the committee:

HB 4433 Casperson	Civil rights; religious discrimination; certain displays on public property; authorize and regulate.
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TESTIMONY

Susan Herman, representing the Michigan Jewish Conference and Anti-Defamation League of B’Nai B’Rith, opposed the bill.

Professor Frank S. Ravitch, representing the Michigan Jewish Conference and Anti-Defamation League of B’Nai B’Rith, opposed the bill.

Shelli Weisberg, representing the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, opposed the bill.

Steve Manchester, representing the Lansing Branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, opposed the bill.

Mary Pollock, representing the Lansing Branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, opposed the bill.

Peter Eckstein, representing himself, opposed the bill.

Reverend Alan W. Kamens, representing himself, opposed the bill.

Fern Ettinger, representing the National Council of Jewish Women, opposed the bill.

Lisa Babock, representing herself, opposed the bill.

Solis Jonathan, representing himself, opposed the bill.

Representative Tom Casperson, bill sponsor, explained the bill to the committee.

Representative Hoogendyk moved to adopt the following amendment to **HB 4433**. The motion was supported by **Representative Gosselin**.

1. Amend page 1, line 1, after “that” by striking out “contains” and inserting “may be primarily religious in nature or origin and that has had an impact on this state’s or this country’s history, including”.

The motion prevailed by a vote of **6-2-0**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Drolet, Hoogendyk, Gosselin, Garfield, Sheen, Lemmons, III,

Nays: Representatives Tobocman, Lipsey,

Pass: None.

Representative Hoogendyk moved to amend the title of **HB 4433** as follows. The motion was supported by **Representative Gosselin**.

“A bill to allow the display of the Ten Commandments and other documents with religious significance on public property under certain circumstances.”

The motion prevailed by a vote of **7-0-1**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Drolet, Hoogendyk, Gosselin, Garfield, Sheen, Lipsey, Lemmons, III,

Nays: None,

Pass: Representative Tobocman.

Representative Gosselin moved to report **HB 4433** with recommendation, as substitute (**H-1**). The motion was supported by **Representative Garfield**.

The motion prevailed by a vote of **5-3-0**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Drolet, Hoogendyk, Gosselin, Garfield, Sheen,

Nays: Representatives Tobocman, Lipsey, Lemmons, III,
Pass: None.

Chairman Drolet laid **HR 24** before the committee:

HR 24 Gosselin A resolution to urge the Michigan Capitol Committee to recommend that a display of the Ten Commandments be placed in the Capitol.

TESTIMONY

Representative Gosselin, sponsor of the resolution, explained the resolution to the committee.

Shelli Weisberg, representing the American Civil Liberties Union, opposed the resolution.

Steve Manchester, representing the Lansing Branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, opposed the resolution.

Jim Booth, representing himself, opposed the resolution.

Lisa Babock, representing herself, opposed the resolution.

Representative Gosselin moved to adopt the **(H-2)** substitute to **HR 24**. The motion was supported by **Representative Hoogendyk**.

The motion prevailed by a vote of **6-2-0**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Drolet, Hoogendyk, Gosselin, Garfield, Sheen, Lemmons, III,
Nays: Representatives Tobocman, Lipsey,
Pass: None.

Representative Garfield moved to adopt the following amendments to **HR 24 (H-2)**. The motion was supported by **Representative Gosselin**.

1. Amend the title of the resolution, line 2, after “that” by striking out “are” and inserting “may be”.

2. Amend the resolving clause, line 3, after the second “that” by striking out “are” and inserting “may be”.

The motion prevailed by a vote of **6-2-0**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Drolet, Hoogendyk, Gosselin, Garfield, Sheen, Lemmons, III,
Nays: Representatives Tobocman, Lipsey,
Pass: None.

Representative Gosselin moved to report **HR 24** with recommendation, as substitute (**H-3**). The motion was supported by **Representative Garfield**.

The motion prevailed by a vote of **5-3-0**.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Drolet, Hoogendyk, Gosselin, Garfield, Sheen
Nays: Representatives Tobocman, Lipsey, Lemmons, III,
Pass: None.

Representative Gosselin moved to adopt the minutes of the **March 15, 2005** meeting. The motion was supported by **Representative Garfield**. There being no objection, the motion carried by unanimous consent.

Chairman Drolet announced that the committee on Government Operations has received, on behalf of the Michigan House of Representatives, the following performance audits from the office of the Auditor General:

-Follow-up review of the performance audit of the Automated Information Systems, Department of Treasury.

-Performance audit of the Qualified Voter File and Digital Driver's License Systems, Department of State and Department of Information Technology.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Representative Leon Drolet, Chair
House Standing Committee on Government Operations
Ben Williams Jr.
Committee Clerk
517-373-7256
1 Hour and 40 Minutes